

In the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning “The mappings 63...” on page 9 as set forth below.

The mappings 63 produced by the NDS transform constructor 62 are used by another process in the course of classifying an unknown test item. The output statistics 66 produced by the pattern recognition system in operation 620 are subjected to the same kind of transformation done to output statistics in the NDS setup stage 610. Additional tests for unreasonable or unexpected values should be made in operation as well. The decision stage [65] 68 is then presented with a single number from 0 to 100 inclusive, which comprehensively represents the output statistics 66 of the pattern recognition system in a context independent fashion.